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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
Human Resources Committee

Office of the Chairman

HRC-C-77-065

29 July 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John N. McMahon  
Acting Deputy to the DCI  
for the Intelligence Community

FROM: Ambassador [redacted]  
Chairman, Human Resources Committee

SUBJECT: Definitions of Intelligence [redacted]

REFERENCE: ICS-77-6315 of 18 July 1977, Same Subject

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25X1 1. [redacted] As has been suggested, it probably is time now for the Community to start the long and arduous process of agreeing on narrative descriptions of what we do and how we do it. In the human resources area, we have been working at it now for a year, and after many hard bargaining sessions we have reached agreement on 40 particularly troublesome words, some of which are addressed also in the referent strawman of definitions. I have made the NPHR Glossary of Intelligence Terms, which has been extensively coordinated within the various departments and agencies and by the NFIB, available to OPP for their use in this exercise.

25X1 2. [redacted] I do not foresee any difficulty in adapting the NPHR Glossary to whatever ultimately emerges as a draft DCID on the subject, since ours is a "living text" covering terms in regular and frequent use, with language that may be revised by mutual consent to reflect changes taking place in human resource intelligence practices. At present the development of the NPHR glossary is a continuing HRC activity. It does not seem reasonable, however, to involve the NFIB departments and agencies in both of these activities simultaneously since it gets too confusing. We have already had calls from several agencies concerning the OPP initiative and its effect on the HRC activity. I therefore propose to suspend this HRC activity once the ICS program gets fully under way. Alternatively, it may be feasible to integrate the HRC activity into the ICS sponsored endeavor,

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3. ☐ Our experience to date indicates that the draft DCID may be a long time in the making. "Hard bargaining" understates the process to arrive at consensus on troublesome intelligence terminology, and there is no practical alternative to consensus unless the definitions are to be operative only in NFIP activities. The problem is that most of the definitional differences between Community entities mirror long smoldering disagreements over authorities and responsibilities. As one of many examples, CIA and DoD have long disagreed about which DoD intelligence activities must be coordinated with CIA. To oversimplify, the existing Community statutes say the DoD overt intelligence collection activities need not be coordinated with CIA whereas covert collection activities must be coordinated. There are certain DoD collection activities that are neither clearly overt nor clearly covert. These the DoD feels it should not have to coordinate with CIA. The DoD classifies such activities as "Overt Sensitive", which term the CIA does not recognize. In practice the DoD and CIA have reached a modus-vivendi as regards the "Overt Sensitive" activities, but the cease fire ends the moment that these words are tabled for Community definition and enforced use.

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4. ☐ The greatest benefit to be derived from the development of the proposed DCID may be that many of the inter-departmental frictions (regarding authorities and responsibilities) that have been swept under the rug, as well as those that surfaced in the strategic/tactical discussions and the PRM development process, will be addressed again and a few perhaps resolved. Collection Committees cannot avoid involvement in all this, and could in fact carry the principal burden in trying to resolve issues which underlie definitional disputes. Perhaps some kind of joint OPP-OPEI effort is called for here.

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Attachment  
As stated

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SUBJECT: Definitions of Intelligence

Distribution:

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ICS/OPEI/HRD/[ ] b1r (29 July 1977)

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ICS-77-6315

18 JUL 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : John N. McMahon  
Acting Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence  
Community

SUBJECT : Definitions of Intelligence

REFERENCE : DCI Memo B-110708-77 of 2 June 1977, Subject:  
National & Tactical Intelligence Relationship

1. Action Requested: None, for information only. The attached draft DCID on "Definitions of Intelligence" has been forwarded to the NFIB members for comment.

2. Background: In response to the reference which contains your views on national-departmental-tactical intelligence and your guidance at the 5 July 1977 NFIB meeting concerning definitions of intelligence, we have prepared the attached draft DCID. I believe it represents an organized approach to the matter and can provide a structure for discussion by NFIB. The DCID, in addition to defining 35 various "intelligence" usages, provides a framework which relates the definitions to one another. Wherever possible, existing terminology has been used. Where sources are in conflict, a notation to that effect accompanies the definitions. When comments have been received from the NFIB members we will propose the matter for addressal at an NFIB meeting.

Attachment  
As stated

[Redacted Signature Box]

John N. McMahon

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OPP/PPD/ [redacted] (14 July 1977)

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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Definitions of Intelligence

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29 July 1977

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

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OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

- 1. Acting Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community

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15 AUG 1977

[Signature]

3. OPP